

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 02233 191300Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 EUR-12 HA-05 ISO-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /109 W
-----091709 200939Z /10

R 191114Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2723
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2233

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR BC CU
SUBJ: CUBAN VISIT TO BOTSWANA

REF: (A) GABORONE 2043, (B) GABORONE 1997

1. CUBAN ROVING AMBASSADOR ALPIO ZORILLA VISITED GABORONE DURING WEEK OF JULY 10 FOR AN "EXCHANGE OF OPINION" WITH GOB OFFICIALS ON NAM ISSUES AND THE GENERAL SITUATION IN AFRICA. ACCORDING TO DAILY NEWS ARTICLE, ZORILLA WAS RECEIVED BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND INFORMATION KWELEGOBE ACTING FOR EXTAFF MIN MOGWE WHO WAS OUT OF TOWN. DURING HIS VISIT, ZORILLA REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT CUBAN SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IS "NOT NEGOTIABLE" AND THAT CUBA INTENDS TO STEP UP SUCH ASSISTANCE IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. WITH REGARD TO BOTSWANA/CUBA RELATIONS, ZORILLA REPORTEDLY TOLD DAILY NEWS THAT THIS WILL DEPEND "ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS".

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 02233 191300Z

2. DAILY NEWS ARTICLE ASSERTED THAT CUBA'S AFRICAN POLICY HAS "ADDED TENSION ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE" AND THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CUBA CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE BECAUSE OF THIS INFLEXIBILITY". ARTICLE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT CUBAN AID IS SELECTIVELY CHANNELED TO CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON BASIS OF "SO-CALLED PROLETARIAT (SIC) INTERNATIONALISM".

3. PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR CHARLES TIBONE TOLD US JULY 17 THAT ZORILLA ALSO BELATEDLY DELIVERED FORMAL INVITATION TO GOB FOR BOTSWANA DELEGATES TO ATTEND HAVANA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT GOB TEMPORARILY CONFISCATED PASSPORTS OF MARXIST BOTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT MEMBERS WHO HAD RECEIVED INVITATIONS AND AIR TICKETS FOR FESTIVAL DIRECTLY FROM SOVIET EMBASSY HERE. (REFTELS) TIBONE TOLD US THAT BELATED CUBAN EFFORT TO INVITE BOTSWANA DELEGATES THROUGH GOB, AS IS NORMAL PRACTICE HERE, WOULD NOT INFLUENCE GOB DECISION TO BOYCOTT FESTIVAL.

4. COMMENT: ZORILLA RECEIVED A DECIDEDLY COOL RECEPTION IN GABORONE AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE UNFAVORABLE REFERENCES TO CUBAN POLICY IN AFRICA WHICH APPEARED IN DAILY NEWS ACCOUNT OF HIS VISIT. ZORILLA'S VERY CAUTIOUS RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF CUBA/BOTSWANA RESIDENT RELATIONS INDICATES THAT RUMORED ARRIVAL OF CUBAN AMBASSADOR MAY HAVE BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. VISIT ALSO PROBABLY DID LITTLE TO CHANGE WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM AMONG GOB OFFICIALS CONCERNING CUBA'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY ONE OF ZORILLA'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVES. IN FACT, OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH TIBONE AND OTHER GOB OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT SOVIET/CUBAN ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT GOB AND SHOWER BNF WITH INVITATIONS TO HAVANA HAS BEEN A CLEAR, AND POSSIBLY LASTING, SETBACK FOR THEIR RELATIONS WITH BOTSWANA.

ALBERTI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 02233 191300Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO02233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780297-1176
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780744/aaaabkto.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5d0b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GABORONE 2043, 78 GABORONE 1997
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1959957
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN VISIT TO BOTSWANA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BC, CU, (ZORILLA, ALIPIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5d0b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014